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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 624
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to designate Sunday, April 26, 1998, as "Dedrick
'Teddy' Withers Day" in Shelby County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should pay
homage to their former colleagues whose years of dedicated service to Tennessee have
contributed significantly to the well-being of this great state; and

WHEREAS, the late Dedrick "Teddy" Withers was one such estimable person, who
represented the good people of the 85th House District with probity and diligence for ten years
as a member of the 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd and 93rd General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the son of Dorothy Withers and internationally known photographer Ernest
Withers, Teddy was born in Memphis on February 5, 1952; he received his Bachelor of Science
Degree in Criminal Justice from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded and popular member, Representative Withers served
astutely as chairman of the important Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice subcommittee and
made many significant contributions as a valued member of the House Finance, Ways and
Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served with distinction as Chairman of the International Affairs
Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

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WHEREAS, Representative Withers sponsored House Bill Number 2248 creating the Institute of African Affairs, previously codified as Tennessee Code Annotated, §4-38-101 to disseminate information about Africa's forty developing nations and their values, religions, economics, politics, natural resources and material needs, in an effort to enhance international trade between the United States and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Withers played an integral role in organizing the African American People's Convention, held on April 27, 1991, in Memphis, helping to elect the first African American Mayor of Memphis, Dr. W.W. Herenton, in the process; and

WHEREAS, a noted photographer, Representative Withers was also associated with Street Brothers Motor Company; and

WHEREAS, he contributed his time and considerable talents as a member of the State and National Boards of Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce and as National Executive Committee President of this worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, Representative Withers received the Southwest Jaycee's Outstanding Statesman Award in 1978, was featured in Ebony Magazine as "One of America's New Outstanding Black Leaders" and was listed as one of America's Future National Leaders by David Broder in his book *America's Future Leaders*; and

WHEREAS, as a tribute to this outstanding public servant, the City of Memphis will be designating Horn Lake Road as "Dedrick 'Teddy' Withers Parkway" on April 26, 1998, in conjunction with ceremonies honoring his life at the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor the memory of this exemplary Tennessean, whose life of purpose and commitment to the good people of Shelby County should not go unrecognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we hereby designate Monday, April 27, 1998, as "Dedrick 'Teddy' Withers Day" in Shelby County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.